



**DELAWARE
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**

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June 26 and 27, 2008

Weekend DART Bus Service Begins

*Saturday Service in Kent County and
Sunday Service in New Castle County launches June 28 and 29*

Dover and Wilmington – Governor Ruth Ann Minner and The Delaware Transit Corporation (DTC), a division of the Delaware Department of Transportation (DelDOT), announced the start of new weekend bus service along high ridership routes in New Castle and Kent counties.

DART First State's Weekend Bus Service – Saturday service on specific routes in Kent County begins June 28 and Sunday service on specific routes in New Castle County begins June 29 -- will benefit residents, employers and employees by linking more of the state's workforce with employers. It will also allow residents access to shopping, entertainment, houses of worship and recreational facilities.

Two kick-off events were held to announce details of the new routes, and Governor Minner presided over the first event, held June 26, 2008 in front of the Dover Mall. DelDOT Secretary Carolann Wicks then presided over the June 27, 2008 event at Wilmington's Rodney Square. Also speaking at the events were state Senator Harris McDowell, DTC Executive Director Stephen Kingsberry, Dover Mayor Carlton Carey, Jeff Flynn, Deputy Director, Wilmington Office of Economic Development, Greg Eroo, Dover Mall Manager, Tom Davis, TMA Delaware Chairman of the Board, Rev. Dwayne Bull of Dover, and Rev. Derrick Johnson of Wilmington.

"This new service will help Delawareans who don't own or have access to vehicles, as well as those who want to save money on gas and help to preserve our environment by taking the bus," Gov. Ruth Ann Minner said. "I thank all of those who have been involved in starting this service, which will be of tremendous benefit to our state."

DelDOT Secretary Carolann Wicks said, "This is an example of our efforts to make progress with the funds we have available. We are continually evaluating how we do business and where we can continue to improve and grow our transit service. Weekend service, adjusting current routes, adding new routes, and seeking partnerships to add service where none now exists will remain our focus."

Stephen Kingsberry said, "I am happy to be able to offer this much needed service to the community at this time. It will enable people to get to work, church and recreational activities."

Route Specifics:

For Kent County, the pilot service would operate with one-hour frequency on Saturday between the hours of 9 a.m. and 6 p.m. for DART bus routes 101, 104, 107, 109 and 112. The Harrington-Dover Shuttle will run every two hours. These routes serve the major destinations for shopping and employment in the Greater Dover Area, from north Dover on Rt. 13 to Camden, and including Walker Road, Greentree Village Shopping Center, WalMart in Camden, Rodney Village Shopping Center, Williams State Service Center, Bay Court Plaza, Blue

Hen Corporate center, Dover Mall, WalMart in Dover, Dover Downs, Delaware Technical & Community College and Delaware State University.

The bus fare is \$1 per ride, while daily passes and prepaid discounted DARTCards are available.

For New Castle County, the pilot service would operate with a one hour frequency on Sunday between the hours of 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. for DART Routes 1, 2, 4, 5, 15, and 33. Route 22 will operate every 90 minutes from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. These routes serve a variety of areas, including employment centers, from Christiana, City of New Castle, Newport, Stanton, Lancaster Pike, Talleyville, Philadelphia Pike, Bellefonte and Wilmington.

The bus fare is \$1.15 per ride, while daily passes and prepaid discounted DARTCards are available.

Rationale

The DART fixed routes chosen are the most productive routes in each system, having the highest number of passengers per hour riding the bus route; and serving the highest concentrations of population and businesses for that county. By conducting surveys and analysis of public comments, DTC learned that there is a demand in areas with concentrated population for extended weekend service.

The cost to add the Weekend Service is approximately \$2 million, and includes hiring approximately 35 new employees.

Expectations and Evaluation

DTC anticipates the ridership in New Castle County will be approximately 4,600 daily passengers on the Fixed Routes, and another 238 more daily Paratransit passengers. For the Dover service, DTC estimates approximately 608 daily passengers. Note that Saturday Paratransit service is already provided in Kent County.

Performance of the new routes would be evaluated at the end of one year. Service decisions are based on a combination of service planning goals and performance criteria, the passengers per hour performance measure, which for New Castle County would be 15 passengers per hour, and for Kent County 10 passengers per hour. If one or more of these routes do not meet the established productivity standard, DTC would further analyze the service to determine if any improvements can be made to the route's productivity, or may eliminate routes that do not meet the minimum standards.

Rider Help

If you are new to the system, one of DART's Travel Trainers can assist for free in planning trips, reading bus schedules, paying fares, boarding using a wheelchair lift, and more. You can schedule a time with a Travel Trainer by calling 302-760-2858 or you can get trip planning information by calling 1-800-652-DART (3278), Monday through Friday from 6 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. and on Saturday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Also go to www.dartfirststate.com for more information.

